

Lake Apopka

Farmworkers

Environmental Health

Survey

A Project of the Farmworker Association of Florida



**The Farmworker Association of Florida
La Asociación Campesina
Asosiyasyon Travayè Latè**

January 2005 - May 2006

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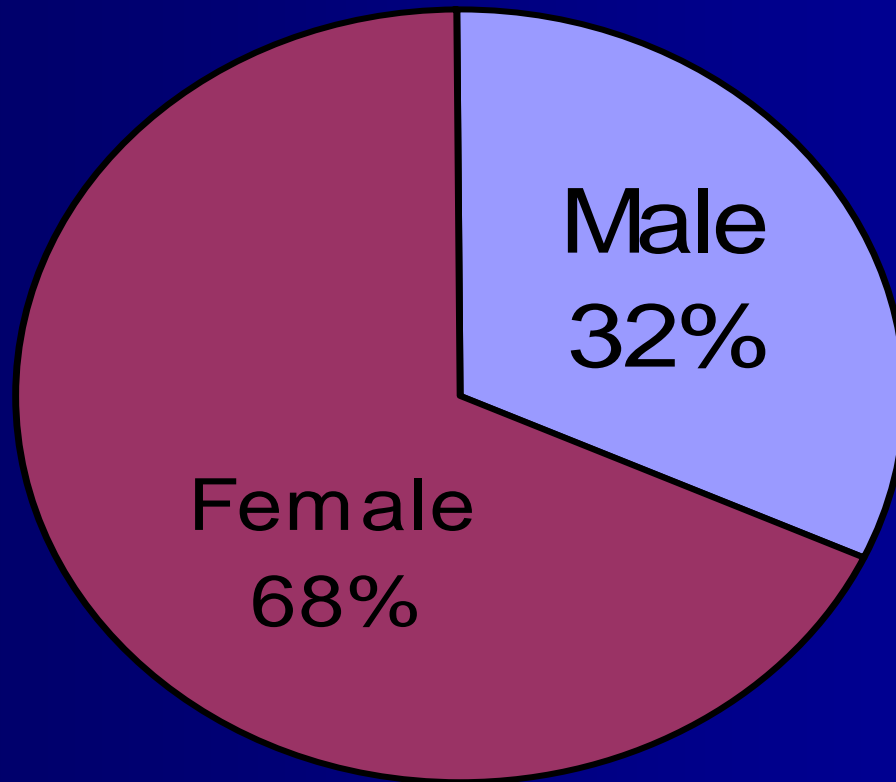


THE SURVEY

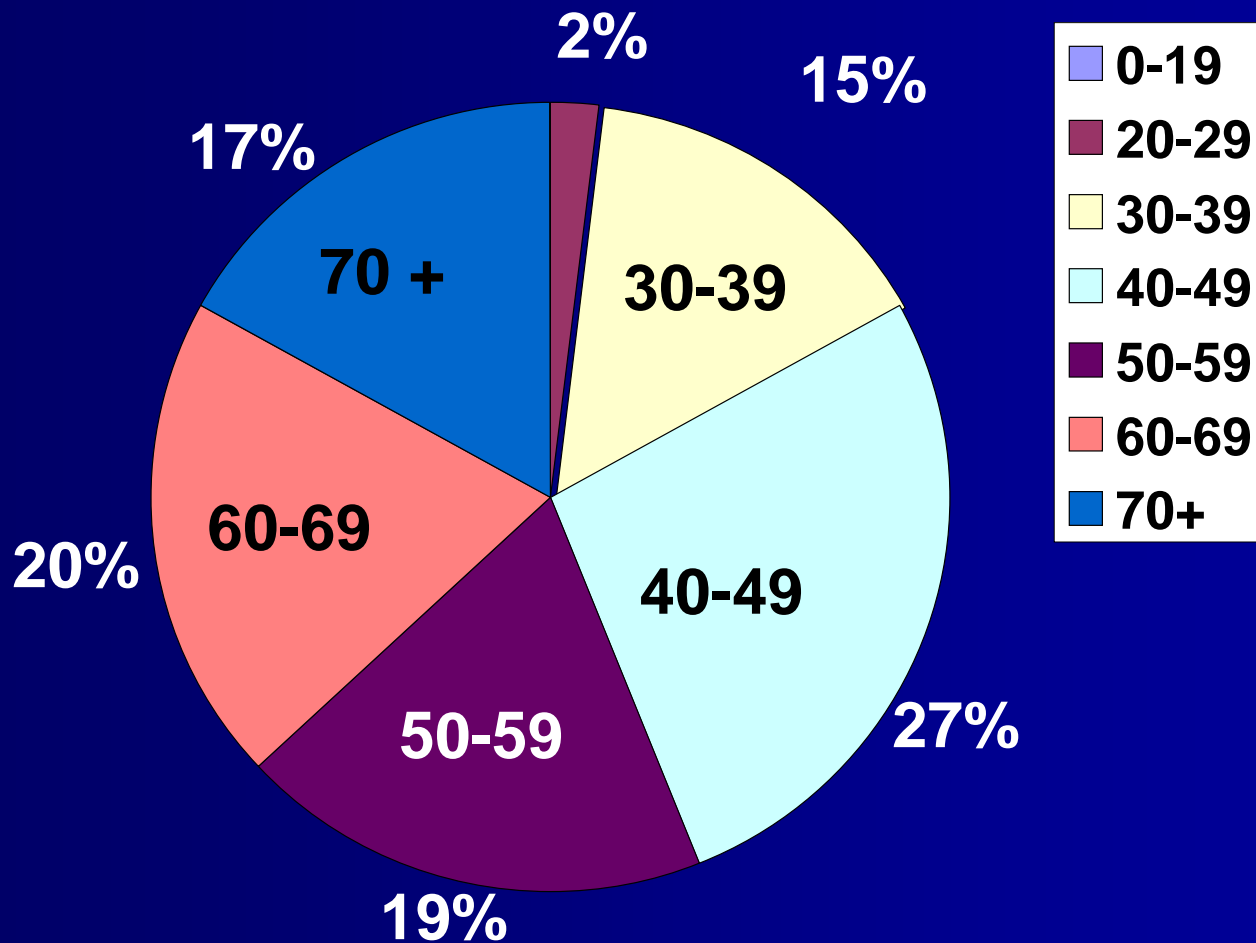


- From January through December 2005, **148** former Lake Apopka farmworkers were interviewed.
- **Ninety-two percent (92%)** said that they had been exposed to pesticides in the workplace.
- **Eighty-five percent (85%)** feel that exposure to pesticides has affected their health.
- **Eighty-three (83%)** feel that they are in "*fair*" or "*poor*" health.

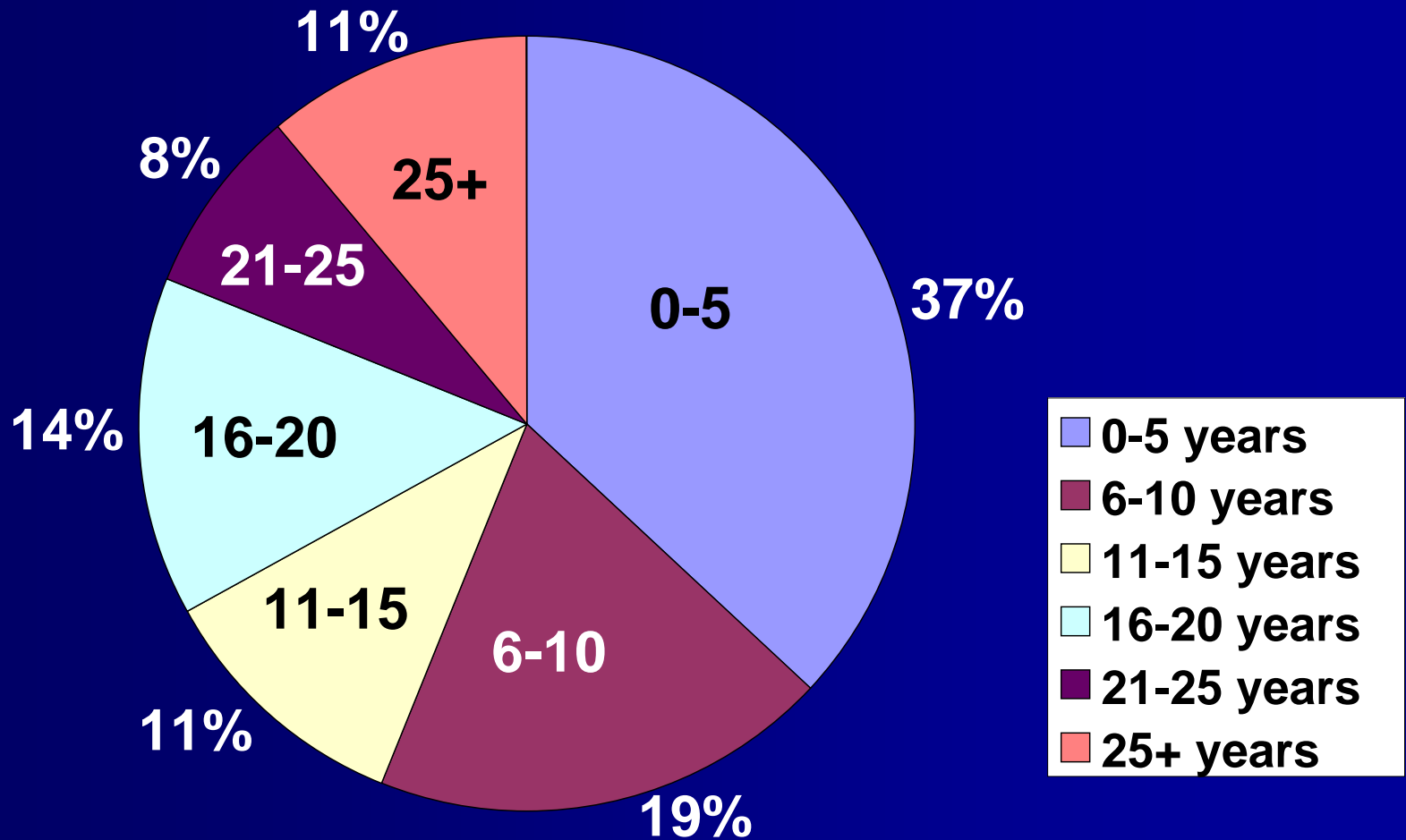
Percentage of Men and Women Surveyed



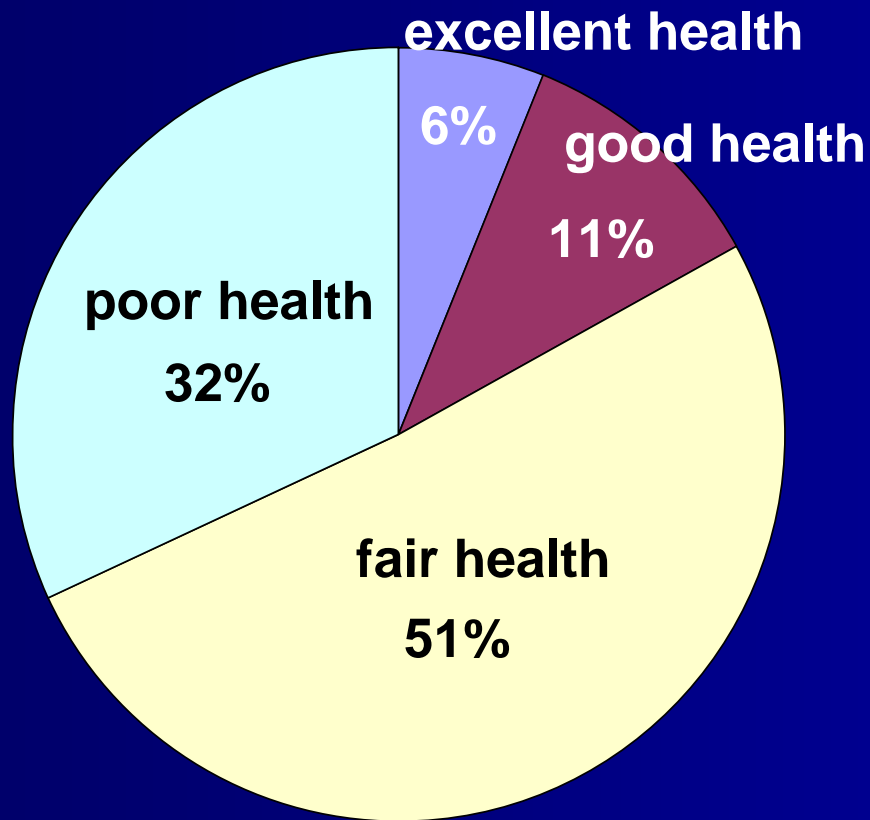
Age of Farmworkers at the Time They Were Surveyed



Years in Farm Work



How People Feel About Their Health condition

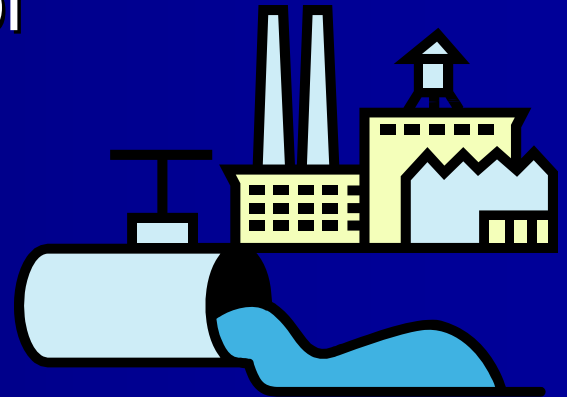




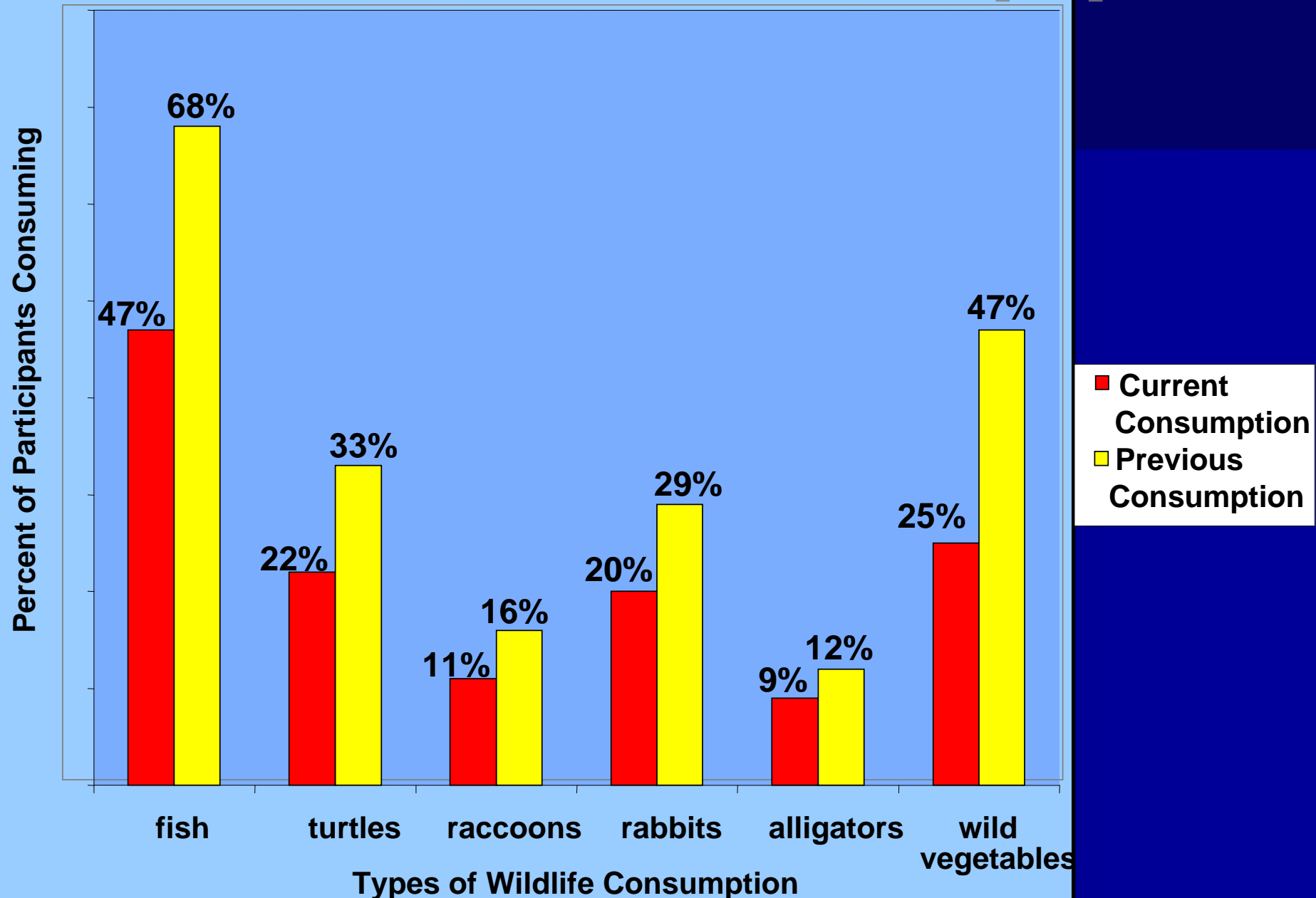
*"No one ever told the workers
what kind of pesticides and
the dangers we were exposed to."*

Other Places of Contamination in the Area

- **Two** industrial landfills
- **Two** EPA Superfund sites
- City sewage treatment plant
- Medical waste incinerator
- Plastics industries



Food From Around Lake Apopka



Most Common Diseases and Sickneses Reported

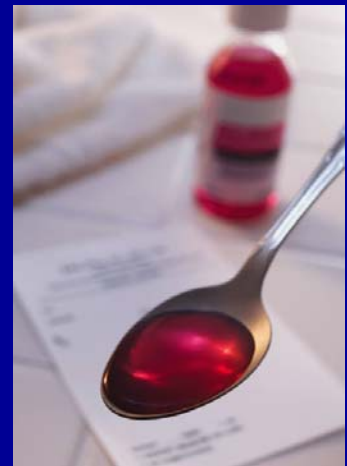
Arthritis	70%	Nervousness	42%
Frequent sinus problems	60%	A lot of coughing	40%
Throat problems	58%	Earaches/ear infections	39%
Allergies	53%	Asthma	38%
Rheumatism	49%	Sadness a lot	38%
Urinary urgency at night	49%	Uncontrollable anger	37%
Diabetes	47%	Poor memory	36%
Skin problems/recurrent rashes	46%	Acid reflux	33%
Overweight	46%	Urinary tract/bladder infections	31%
Bladder urgency	45%	Constipation	30%

Some Not Taking Prescriptions For Illnesses

Health Problem	People suffering from this health problem	People taking prescription for health problem	People that can not get prescriptions for this health problem
Arthritis	70%	54%	16%
Throat problems	58%	for chronic cough 28%	30%
Coughing	40%		
Allergies	53%	34%	19%
Rheumatism	49%	37%	12%
Diabetes	47%	32%	15%
Skin problems/rashes	46%	30%	16%
Thyroid	18%	14%	4%
Lupus	11%	>1%	10%

Over the Counter Medicines

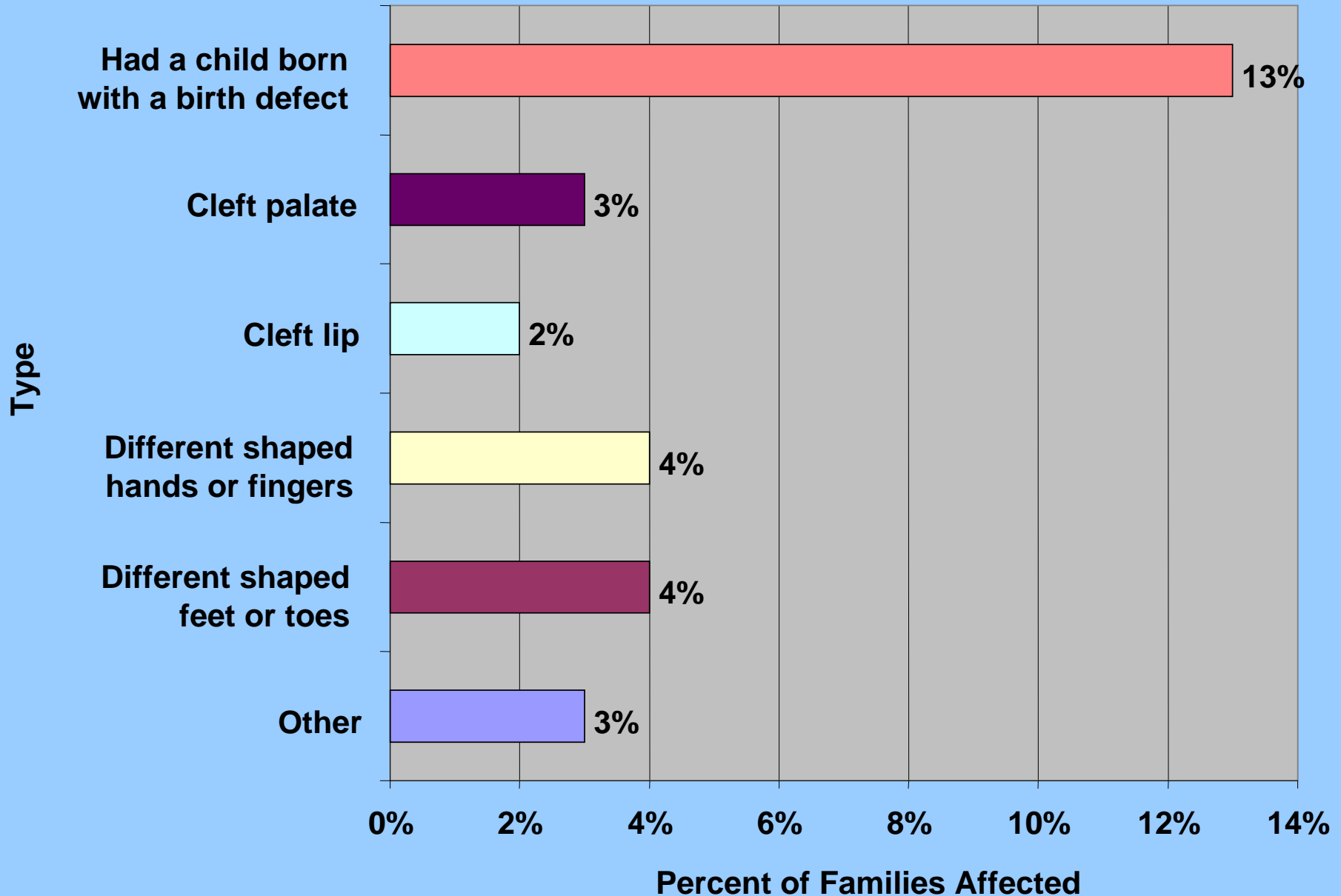
- More than **56%** reported taking medicines for cough or throat problems. (*Cough syrup or drops.*)
- More than **49%** reported using creams to treat skin rashes.



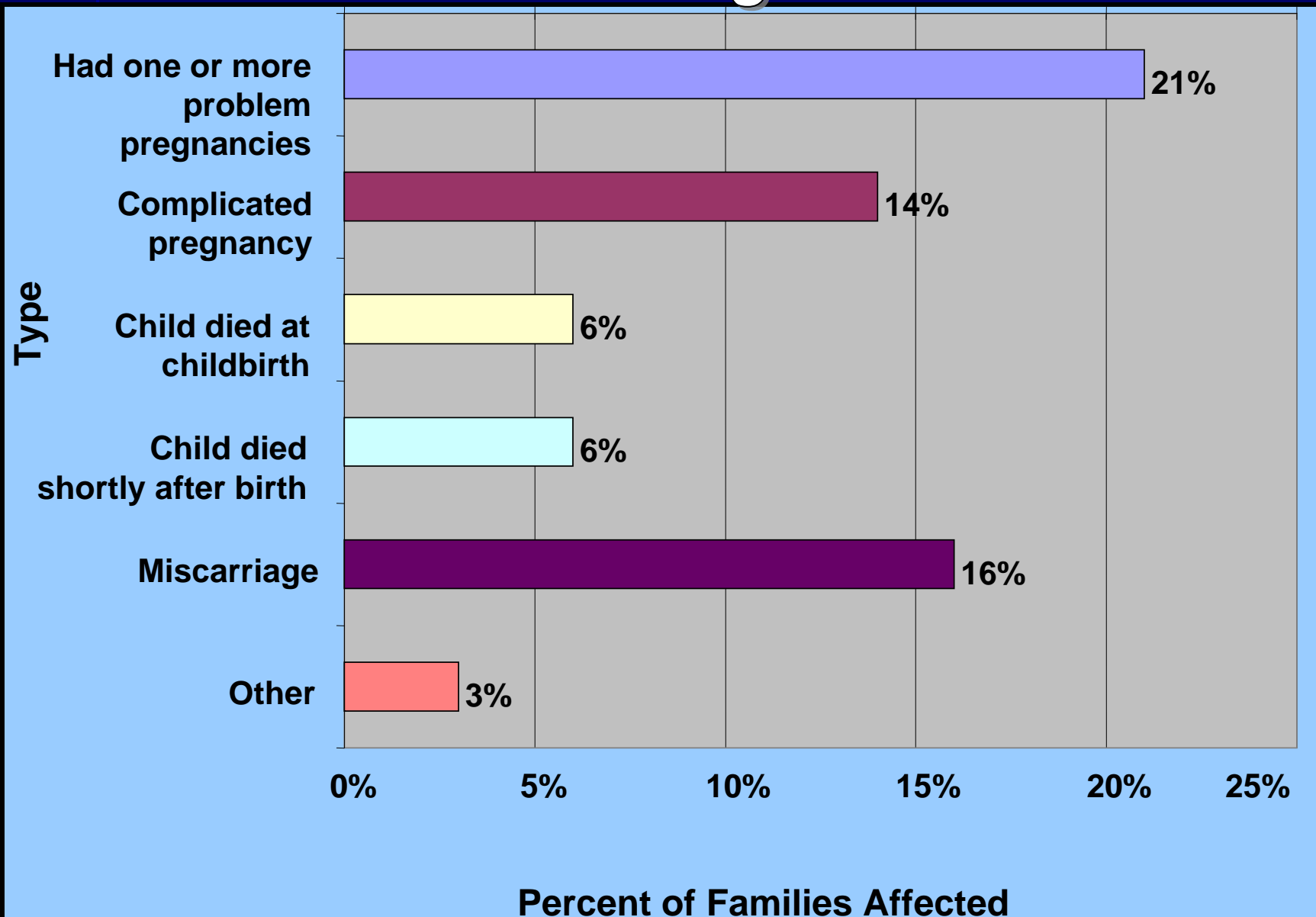
"My husband and I have been seriously affected by our exposure to pesticides working on the farms at Lake Apopka."



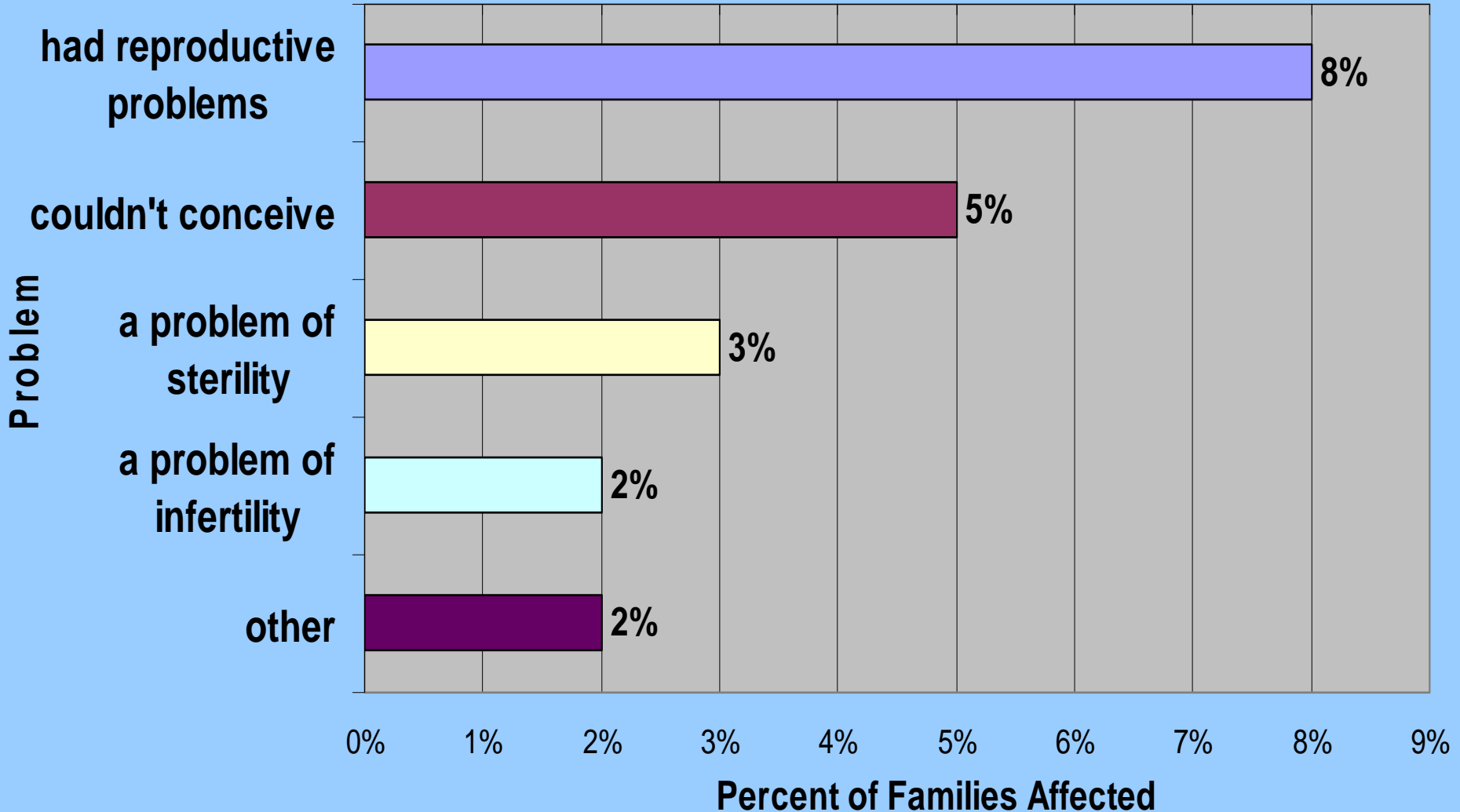
Birth Defects



Problem Pregnancies



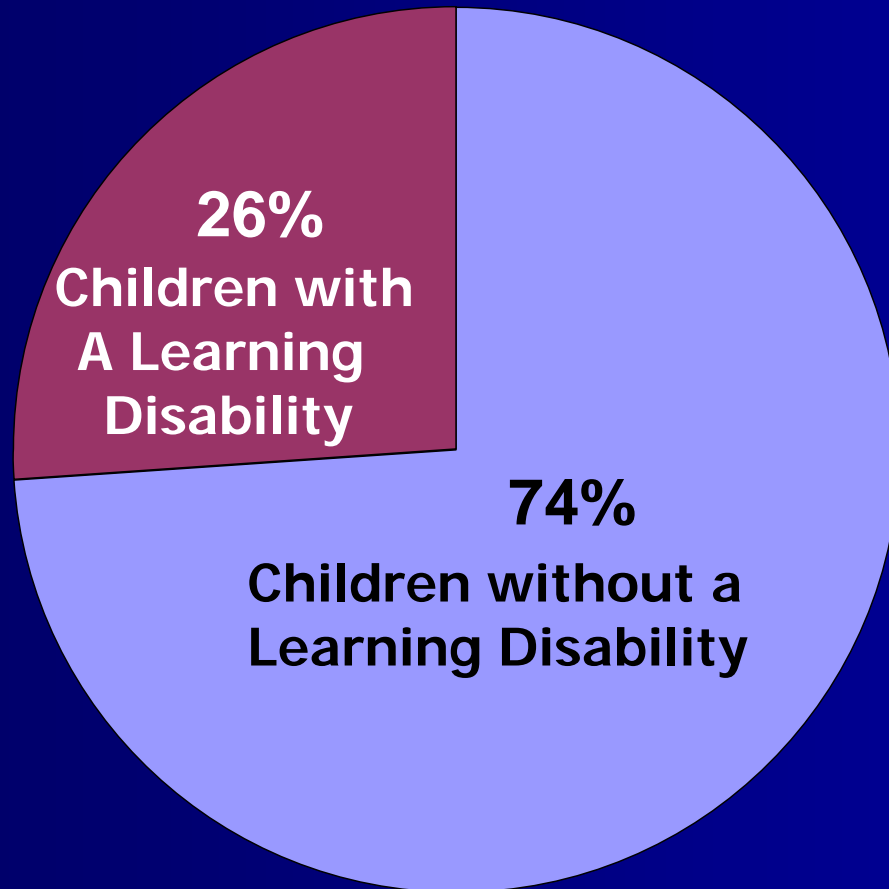
Reproductive Problems



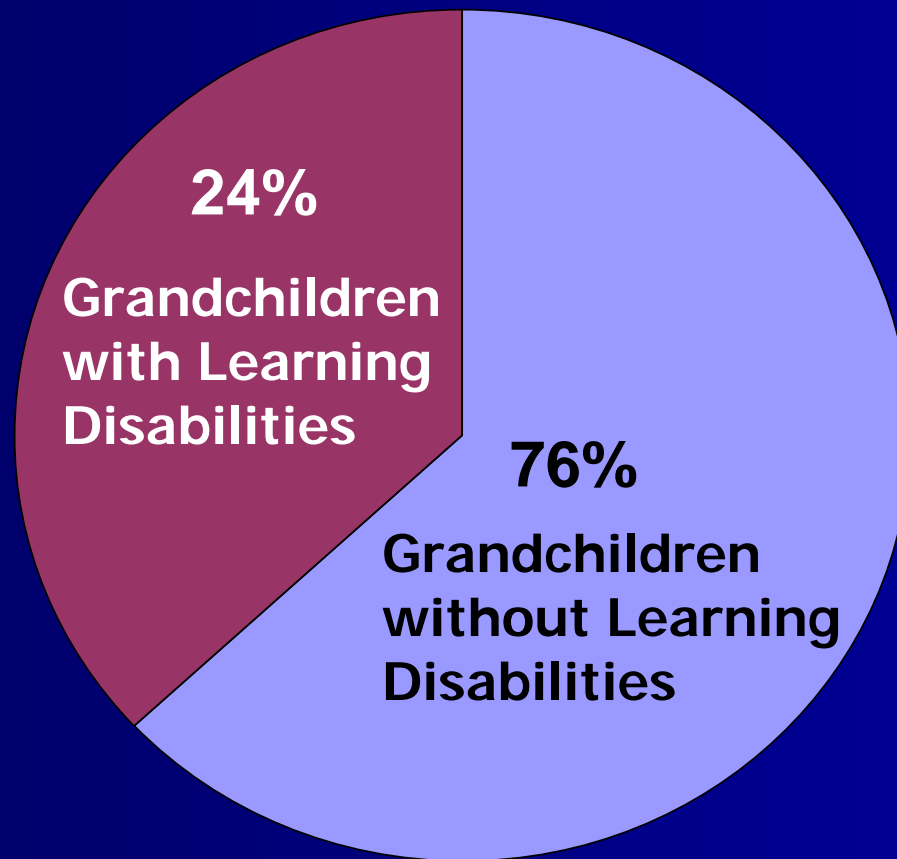
***"I do believe that my children
have the effects of the
chemicals in their systems."***



Children with Learning Disabilities



Grandchildren with Learning Disabilities



***"I can't tell if I have
fair health or poor health.***

***The only thing I know
is that I'm hurting
all the time and
it did not come until
I worked on the
Lake Apopka farm."***

What Do We Want?



- Shorter waiting time for doctor's appointments
- Health care we can afford
- Specialists who can treat our diseases
- Help to pay for prescription medicines
- Testing to find out what makes us sick
- Help with transportation to the clinic

What Else Do We Need?

- Soil testing
- Air testing
- Water testing
- Clean up of pollution
- No more pollution in our neighborhoods



What Else Would Help?

- **Meetings** with **leaders** to answer our questions and to hear our complaints
- Education and information about our **health** and the health of our community
- **Agreements** with **leaders** to take our concerns seriously and to take positive action



***This project is dedicated to all the men,
women, and families who
worked in the fields 📢
and packinghouses
on Lake Apopka.
Thank You!***



***Thanks to all the people
who helped with this project --
all the volunteers
from the community
and the staff of
the Farmworker Association.***

Next Steps???

